

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A maternity undergarment comprising:

a bust section, a torso section and a skirt section,

the torso section comprising a belly panel of a stretchable fabric, the belly panel being surrounded by stretch fabric that is less stretchable than the belly panel, the torso section being thereby adapted to accommodate the changing proportions of a pregnant woman's belly and to provide gentle support thereto while smoothing and shaping her overall silhouette.

2. The maternity undergarment of claim 1, wherein the skirt section is of a fabric that is less stretchable than the belly panel.

3. The maternity undergarment of claim 2, wherein the skirt section is of the same fabric as said less stretchable fabric of the torso section.

4. The maternity undergarment of claim 1, wherein the bust section comprises a brassiere section.

5. The maternity undergarment of claim 4, wherein the brassiere section is supported by a pair of straps adapted to be secured to any of a plurality of anchor points atop the brassiere section, whereby the straps may be adjusted as desired to accommodate changes in bust proportion of the wearer.

6. The maternity undergarment of claim 1, wherein the belly panel is a stretchable mesh fabric and the rest of the torso section is a less-stretchable stretch fabric.

7. The maternity undergarment of claim 6, wherein the stretchable mesh fabric is a tricot mesh and the less-stretchable fabric is a spandex blend.

8. The maternity undergarment of claim 7, wherein the tricot mesh is a polyamide/spandex blend that is more stretchable than the spandex blend of the less-stretchable fabric.

9. The maternity undergarment of claim 1, wherein the less-stretchable fabric is a polyester/spandex blend.
10. The maternity undergarment of claim 1, further comprising a V-shaped back panel of fabric different from said less-stretchable fabric of said rest of the torso section.
11. The maternity undergarment of claim 1, wherein the torso section is knitted so as to provide ribbing which is less stretchable around the belly panel.
12. The maternity undergarment of claim 11, wherein the bust section comprises a brassiere section.
13. The maternity undergarment of claim 12, wherein the torso section is knitted to provide ribbing below the front of the brassiere section and around the top of the back of the torso section.
14. The maternity undergarment of claim 12, wherein the brassiere section is supported by a pair of straps adapted to be secured to any of a plurality of anchor points atop the brassiere section, whereby the straps may be adjusted as desired to accommodate changes in the wearer's bust proportions.